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## THE TYPICAL AMERICAN MIND

SIR:

I was somewhat surprised to observe, in reading Margaret Sherwood's essay, "Our Fear of Excellence," in your August issue, the strain of pessimism running through it. The chronicler of the delightful *Worn Doorstep*—that charming and sympathetic and understanding author of what was England during the war—needs, it seems to me, to remember that her only reason for finding fault with her America is her very love of her own people. In her heart of hearts she was not complaining of our standardized minds, but was, in reality, beseeching her countrymen and countrywomen to do even more with themselves than they have done.

Miss Sherwood is no Mencken. She was not writing for the type of magazine which considers it to be fashionable to belittle everything that is American. She did not, could not, label us as provincial. She was merely hoping (out loud) that we would not stop now but go on producing more Margaret Sherwoods and more of the beautiful minds about which America could but does not boast.

The New York *Sun* editorially commenting on Miss Sherwood's soliloquy (a soliloquy which just happened to jump into type) wondered if we imitated ourselves because we had no near neighbors to imitate: no French, German or Russian customs to take on. Perhaps so. But since, to my way of thinking, there is little virtue in imitation,—but which, nevertheless, is an admitted human trait,—we might just as well keep on imitating ourselves and thereby (because imitating the same thing too long becomes monotonous) cultivate originality and creativeness.

There can be very little wrong with the American mind so long as editorial writers on the *Sun* can and do read the NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW and at the same time enjoy Goldberg's cartoons. The *Sun* writer, in commenting on the "Fear of Excellence," wondered if, after all, it was not a good thing for "Mike and Ike" (Goldberg's characters) to look alike.

No mind that can appreciate the REVIEW and Rube Goldberg at the same time is altogether hopeless. It is the typical American mind.

ANNE CLARKE HINTON.

New York City.

## WHO SHOULD POSSESS THE WEALTH OF THE WORLD?

SIR:

"Is There Enough Banking," by Samuel Spring in a recent number of this REVIEW, is thought provoking. But, although he touches upon some very thought provoking facts, he does not follow up the leads. He seems rather to skim over the surface of his subject and arrive finally at a way station that gets us nowhere.

He tells us that: "Misfortune, unemployment, sickness, the needs of a large